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15 November 1994

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Forty-ninth session
SECOND COMMITTEE
Agenda item 89

ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Australia, Canada, New Zealand and United States of America: draft decision

Large-scale pelagic drift-net fishing and its impact on the living marine resources of the world's oceans and seas

The General Assembly, recalling its decision 48/445 of 21 December 1993 and taking note with appreciation of the report of the Secretary-General on large-scale pelagic drift-net fishing, 1/ decides:

(a) To reaffirm the importance it attaches to compliance with its resolution 46/215 of 20 December 1991, in particular, to those provisions of the resolution calling for full implementation of a global moratorium on all large-scale pelagic drift-net fishing on the high seas of the world's oceans and seas, including enclosed seas and semi-enclosed seas;

(b) To acknowledge and express its appreciation of the measures taken and the substantial progress achieved since 1992, individually and collectively, by members of the international community, international organizations and regional economic integration organizations to implement and support the objectives of resolution 46/215;

(c) To express further serious concern that, despite the progress made, there are reports of continuing conduct and activities inconsistent with the terms of resolution 46/215, and to urge authorities of members of the international community to take greater enforcement responsibility to ensure that their nationals and fishing vessels comply with resolution 46/215 and to

1/ A/49/469.

impose appropriate sanctions against their nationals and fishing vessels that act contrary to the terms of resolution 46/215;

(d) To call upon all members of the international community, intergovernmental organizations, regional economic integration organizations and appropriate non-governmental organizations to provide the Secretary-General with information relevant to the implementation of resolution 46/215, and to request the Secretary-General to take into account the present decision in preparing his report, in accordance with decision 48/445, on further developments relating to the implementation of resolution 46/215.

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ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Algeria*: draft decision

Convention on Biological Diversity

The General Assembly

(a) Welcomes the convening of the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, to be held in Nassau, the Bahamas, from 28 November to 9 December 1994;

(b) Invites the Executive Secretariat of the Convention, through the Commission on Sustainable Development, to report on the results achieved at that meeting to the General Assembly at its fiftieth session under the item entitled "Environment and sustainable development".

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* On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China.

94-45439 (E) 171194 181194

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ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Algeria*: draft resolution

Convention on Biological Diversity

The General Assembly,

Recalling the Convention on Biological Diversity, 1/

Recalling also Agenda 21, 2/ particularly chapter 15, on the conservation of biological diversity, and related chapters,

Deeply concerned about the alarmingly high rate of loss of biological diversity, and the sustainable use of its components, as well as the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the use of genetic resources,

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* On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China.

1/ United Nations Environment Programme, Convention on Biological Diversity (Environmental Law and Institutions Programme Activity Centre), June 1992.

2/ Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992 (A/CONF.151/26/Rev.1 (Vol. I and Vol. I/Corr.1, Vol. II, Vol. III and Vol. III/Corr.1)) (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigenda), vol. I: Resolutions adopted by the Conference, resolution 1, annex II.

1. Welcomes the early entry into force of the Convention on Biological Diversity, 1/ and the convening of the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, to be held in Nassau, the Bahamas, from 28 November to 9 December 1994;

2. Requests the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity to make available the results of the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention as a contribution to the work of the third session of the Commission on Sustainable Development;

3. Calls upon those countries that have not yet ratified the Convention to expedite their internal procedures of ratification, acceptance or approval;

4. Decides to consider the progress achieved in the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity at its fiftieth session under the item entitled "Environment and sustainable development" and invites the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity to report on the results of the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention.

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Agenda item 12

REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

Algeria*: draft resolution

Preventive action and intensification of the struggle against malaria in developing countries, particularly in Africa

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming the agreed conclusions on the coordination segment of the substantive session of 1993 of the Economic and Social Council on the coordination of the policies and activities of the specialized agencies and other bodies of the United Nations system in the fields of preventive action and intensification of the struggle against malaria and diarrhoeal diseases, in particular cholera, 1/

Recalling Economic and Social Council resolution 1994/34 of 29 July 1994, including preventive action and intensification of the struggle against malaria in developing countries, particularly in Africa.

Acknowledging the importance for endemically affected countries of having a modern strategy to control this most deadly of all tropical diseases which annually causes more than one million deaths world wide and nine hundred thousand deaths in Africa,

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* On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China.

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 3 (A/48/3/Rev.1), chap. III, sect B.

94-45445 (E) 171194 181194

Deeply concerned by the development of more than three hundred million new cases of malaria annually and by the emergence of a new type of drug-resistant malaria,

Noting with concern that a major problem complicating malaria treatment and thereby contributing to malaria-related mortality is the continuous intensification and spread of parasite resistance to anti-malarial drugs,

Noting with regret that chloroquine, which traditionally has been prescribed both for prophylaxis and for curative purposes, can no longer be totally relied upon,

Recognizing that malaria-related deaths in the world could be prevented, if appropriate health services were made available in endemically affected countries,

1. Endorses the new Global Malaria Control Strategy of the World Health Organization, endorsed in 1992 by the Ministerial Conference on Malaria, held in Amsterdam, the Netherlands, which aims to prevent mortality and reduce morbidity as well as social and economic losses due to malaria;

2. Recognizes that, where the disease is most prevalent, malaria-related problems vary enormously from situation to situation owing to epidemiological, social, economic and operational factors;

3. Stresses that to achieve the objectives of the Strategy will require the progressive improvement and strengthening of local, national, regional and international capabilities, especially with the aim of enhancing partnership and coordination efforts, involving sectors like education, agriculture and the environment, as well as integrating activities with those on related diseases;

4. Notes with appreciation the continued efforts undertaken by Governments to control the disease, in spite of their meagre resources, including the actions they have taken to stop its outbreak through the widespread spraying of insecticide and by making available appropriate anti-malarial products;

5. Welcomes the fact that the World Health Organization has recently increased its commitment to malaria control, especially in Africa, where the overwhelming majority both of cases and of deaths occur;

6. Also welcomes the fact that Dr. Manuel Elkin Patarroyo of Colombia generously offered to donate the full licence rights of his vaccine SPF-66 to the World Health Organization in June 1993;

7. Notes that there is still a great need to increase resources despite a concerted international effort launched by the World Health Organization and other relevant regional and international bodies to mobilize the necessary resources to control malaria world wide;

8. Appeals to the international community, international organizations, multilateral financial institutions, specialized agencies, organs and programmes of the United Nations system and non-governmental organizations as well as all interested groups to provide developing countries, in particular African countries, with technical, medical and financial assistance commensurate with the efforts needed to control this endemic disease;

9. Requests the Director-General of the World Health Organization, as the lead agency in this field, to mobilize organizations, agencies, organs and programmes of the United Nations system in order to provide technical, medical and financial assistance for preventive action and intensification of the struggle against malaria, and also requests him to coordinate all activities in the field;

10. Requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fiftieth session the report of the Director-General of the World Health Organization, to be prepared in collaboration with other relevant organizations, agencies, organs and programmes of the United Nations system, on the implementation of the present resolution, including, inter alia, answers to the many questions that still need to be addressed, as well as the utilization of an effective malaria vaccine in an integrated approach, together with other malaria-control tools, including drugs and insecticide-impregnated bed nets.

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REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

Algeria*, Japan and United States of America:
revised draft resolution

Preventive action and intensification of the struggle against malaria in developing countries, particularly in Africa

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming the agreed conclusions on the coordination segment of the substantive session of 1993 of the Economic and Social Council on the coordination of the policies and activities of the specialized agencies and other bodies of the United Nations system in the fields of preventive action and intensification of the struggle against malaria and diarrhoeal diseases, in particular cholera, 1/

Recalling Economic and Social Council resolution 1994/34 of 29 July 1994, including preventive action and intensification of the struggle against malaria in developing countries, particularly in Africa,

Acknowledging the importance for endemically affected countries of having a modern strategy to control this most deadly of all tropical diseases which

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* On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China.

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 3 (A/48/3/Rev.1), chap. III, sect B.

annually causes more than one million deaths world wide and nine hundred thousand deaths in Africa,

Deeply concerned by the development of more than three hundred million new cases of malaria annually and by the emergence of a new type of drug-resistant malaria,

Noting with concern that a major problem complicating malaria treatment and thereby contributing to malaria-related mortality is the continuous intensification and spread of parasite resistance to anti-malarial drugs,

Noting with regret that chloroquine, which traditionally has been prescribed both for prophylaxis and for curative purposes, can no longer be totally relied upon,

Recognizing that malaria-related deaths in the world could be prevented, if appropriate health services were made available in endemically affected countries,

1. Endorses the new Global Malaria Control Strategy of the World Health Organization, endorsed in 1992 by the Ministerial Conference on Malaria, held in Amsterdam, the Netherlands, which aims to prevent mortality and reduce morbidity as well as social and economic losses due to malaria;

2. Recognizes that, where the disease is most prevalent, malaria-related problems vary enormously from situation to situation owing to epidemiological, social, economic and operational factors;

3. Stresses that to achieve the objectives of the Strategy will require the progressive improvement and strengthening of local, national, regional and international capabilities, especially with the aim of enhancing partnership and coordination efforts, involving sectors like education, agriculture and the environment, as well as integrating activities with those on related diseases;

4. Notes with appreciation the continued efforts undertaken by Governments to control the disease, in spite of their meagre resources, including the actions they have taken to stop its outbreak through the widespread spraying of insecticide and by making available appropriate anti-malarial products;

5. Welcomes the fact that the World Health Organization has recently increased its commitment to malaria control, especially in Africa, where the overwhelming majority both of cases and of deaths occur;

6. Also welcomes the fact that Dr. Manuel Elkin Patarroyo of Colombia generously offered to donate the full licence rights of his vaccine SPF-66 to the World Health Organization in June 1993;

7. Notes that there is still a great need to increase resources despite a concerted international effort launched by the World Health Organization and other relevant regional and international bodies to mobilize the necessary resources to control malaria world wide;

8. Calls for continued support, in particular for the United Nations Development Programme/World Bank/World Health Organization special programme for research and training in tropical diseases and to the Division of Control of Tropical Diseases of the World Health Organization;

9. Appeals to the international community, international organizations, multilateral financial institutions, specialized agencies, organs and programmes of the United Nations system and non-governmental organizations as well as all interested groups to provide developing countries, in particular African countries, with technical, medical and financial assistance commensurate with the efforts needed to control this endemic disease;

10. Invites the Director-General of the World Health Organization, as the lead agency in this field, to promote the mobilization of organizations, agencies, organs and programmes of the United Nations system in order to provide technical, medical and financial assistance for preventive action and intensification of the struggle against malaria, and to elaborate a plan of action detailing the coordination of all related activities in this field;

11. Requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fiftieth session the report of the Director-General of the World Health Organization, to be prepared in collaboration with other relevant organizations, agencies, organs and programmes of the United Nations system, on the implementation of the present resolution, including, inter alia, answers to the many questions that still need to be addressed, as well as the utilization of an effective malaria vaccine in an integrated approach, together with other malaria-control tools, including the incorporation of appropriate technologies for malaria control, with specific attention to the results of scientific investigations concerning the latest developments in this field.

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Agenda item 88 (g)

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION:
UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON HUMAN SETTLEMENTS (HABITAT II)

Algeria* and Turkey: draft resolution

United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II)

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 47/180 of 22 December 1992, by which it decided to convene the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) from 3 to 14 June 1996, and to establish both a preparatory committee and an ad hoc secretariat for the Conference,

Reiterating its gratitude to the Government of Turkey for offering to act as host to the Conference, which is to be held at Istanbul,

Reaffirming the importance of the principles contained in the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, 1/ and the objectives, basis for action, activities and means of implementation of those activities, set out in

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* On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China.

1/ Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992 (A/CONF.151/26/Rev.1 (Vol. I and Vol. I/Corr.1, Vol. II, Vol. III and Vol. III/Corr.1)) (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigenda), vol. I: Resolutions Adopted by the Conference, resolution 1, annex I.

chapter 7, entitled "Promoting sustainable human settlements development", of Agenda 21, 2/

Noting with interest the progress made so far in the preparations for the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), as described in the reports of the Preparatory Committee for the Conference on its organizational session 3/ and its first session, 4/ as well as in the report of the Secretary-General on the progress of work of the Preparatory Committee and the ad hoc secretariat for the Conference, 5/

Noting with concern that the resources currently available to the secretariat for the Conference, through voluntary contributions, among other sources, including maximum redeployment of resources from the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), remain insufficient to support the preparatory process for the Conference on the scale envisaged by the General Assembly in resolution 47/180, in particular with respect to the ability of the secretariat to provide assistance to developing countries and other States requiring such assistance in their national preparatory efforts for the Conference,

1. Takes note of the reports of the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) on its organizational session, held at United Nations Headquarters from 3 to 5 March 1993 3/ and its first substantive session, held at the United Nations Office at Geneva from 11 to 22 April 1994, 4/ and endorses the decisions contained therein;

2. Takes note with appreciation of the report of the Secretary-General concerning progress in the preparations for the Conference; 5/

3. Approves the recommendation contained in decision I/1 of the Preparatory Committee that a third substantive session of the Preparatory Committee, of relatively short duration, be held at United Nations Headquarters early in 1996 to complete the preparatory work for the Conference; 6/

4. Welcomes the recommendations made by the Preparatory Committee in its decision I/2 on preparations at the country, regional and global levels, on the draft statement of principles and commitments and on the draft global plan of action, which is to be structured around the two main themes of the Conference:

2/ Ibid., annex II.

3/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 37 (A/48/37).

4/ Ibid., Forty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 37 (A/49/37).

5/ A/49/272.

6/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 37 (A/49/37), annex I.

"Adequate shelter for all" and "Sustainable human settlements development in an urbanizing world"; 6/

5. Endorses the call by the Secretary-General of the United Nations to give the Conference the dimensions of a "summit", and reaffirms its decision that the Conference should be held at the highest possible level of participation; 7/

6. Recommends that the global plan of action of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) take into account the outcome of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, the International Conference on Population and Development, the World Summit for Social Development and the Fourth World Conference on Women: Action for Equality, Development and Peace, at the human settlement level, and therefore invites all organs, organizations, agencies and programmes of the United Nations system to cooperate fully with the secretariat of the Conference for that purpose;

7. Recommends also that the inclusion of sustainable human settlements issues, as contained in chapter 7 of Agenda 21, be given appropriate attention within the context of an agenda for development, which is being prepared pursuant to General Assembly resolutions 47/181 of 22 December 1992 and 48/166 of 21 December 1993, and reaffirms that human beings should be at the centre of all concerns for sustainable development;

8. Expresses its sincere appreciation to those States and organizations that have made or pledged financial or other contributions in support of the preparatory activities for the Conference, and requests the Secretary-General of the Conference to continue to make every effort to raise the extrabudgetary resources required for Conference activities and preparations;

9. Renews its appeal to all Governments, especially those of the developed countries and others in a position to do so, and to international and regional financial institutions, to contribute substantially to the voluntary funds established by the General Assembly in resolution 47/180 for the purpose of financing preparatory activities for the Conference and of supporting developing countries, in particular the least developed among them, in participating fully and effectively in the Conference and its preparatory process;

10. Requests that adequate financial resources be made available from the regular budget of the United Nations, to both strengthen the ad hoc secretariat for the Conference and enhance its effectiveness, and also to permit the launching of a full-scale preparatory process, especially at the country level, that would ensure the success of the Conference as an event having a global impact;

7/ Resolution 47/180, para. 1.

11. Invites all organs, organizations, agencies and programmes of the United Nations system, as well as other relevant intergovernmental organizations, to contribute fully to the preparations for the Conference;

12. Also invites interested non-governmental organizations, particularly those from developing countries, to participate in, and contribute to, the Conference and its preparatory process, taking into account procedures followed at recent United Nations conferences;

13. Calls upon the above-mentioned organizations to contribute fully to increasing world awareness of the problems and potential of human settlements as important inputs to social progress and economic growth, and world leaders to commit themselves to making cities, towns and villages healthy, safe, just and sustainable;

14. Requests the regional commissions to include in their programme activities for 1995 an item on the preparations for the Conference, with particular emphasis on preparations for the Conference in their respective regions, and to submit a report on those preparations to the General Assembly at its fiftieth session;

15. Calls upon all States to ensure the broad-based participation of local authorities and other relevant actors in the national, regional and international preparatory process and to encourage a wide exchange of information and experience in this respect, in particular on the programmes of work and activities of national committees;

16. Requests the Secretary-General to establish a special task force composed of heads of the secretariats of all relevant organs and organizations of the United Nations system, taking into account the experience gained from previous relevant United Nations conferences;

17. Calls upon the organs and organizations of the United Nations system to provide financial resources to interested developing countries, at their request, for the preparation of their national reports, which are to be presented, where necessary by audio-visual means, at the Conference;

18. Requests the Secretary-General of the United Nations, in consultation with the Secretary-General of the Conference, to report to the General Assembly at its fiftieth session on the progress made in the preparations for the Conference, including the implementation of the present resolution;

19. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fiftieth session an item entitled "United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II)".

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Agenda item 88 (h)

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION: INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION FOR THE ERADICATION OF POVERTY IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

Algeria*: draft resolution

International cooperation for the eradication of poverty in developing countries: International Year for the Eradication of Poverty

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 48/183 of 21 December 1993 proclaiming 1996 International Year for the Eradication of Poverty,

Reaffirming its resolutions 43/195 of 20 December 1988, 44/212 of 22 December 1989, 45/213 of 21 December 1990, 46/141 of 17 December 1991, 47/197 of 22 December 1992 and 48/184 of 21 December 1993 related to international cooperation for the eradication of poverty in developing countries,

Recalling its resolution 47/196 of 22 December 1992 entitled "Observance of an international day for the eradication of poverty",

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on the International Year for the Eradication of Poverty, 1/

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* On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China.

1/ A/49/572.

Deeply concerned at the steady increase in poverty in developing countries, and at its effect on the most vulnerable groups of society,

Aware of the need for a better understanding of the causes and consequences of poverty,

Recognizing that the eradication of poverty and the full achievement of social, economic and environmental objectives and strategies are interrelated goals,

Stressing the importance of international cooperation in combating poverty and the exchange among countries of successful experiences in the field,

Recognizing that the grave suffering of the great majority of human beings who live in conditions of poverty demands the immediate attention of the international community and the adoption of concrete actions and measures for the eradication of poverty within the framework of relevant forthcoming United Nations conferences, particularly the World Summit for Social Development, and within the context of the International Year for the Eradication of Poverty,

1. Reaffirms that the major activities for the observance of the International Year for the Eradication of Poverty should be undertaken at the local, national, subregional, regional and international levels and that assistance should be provided by the United Nations system with a view to creating among States, policy makers and international public opinion a greater awareness of the fact that the eradication of poverty is both a complex and a multidimensional problem and fundamental to reinforcing peace and achieving sustainable development;

2. Notes with appreciation the importance that the forthcoming World Summit for Social Development is going to place on the issue of poverty eradication and expresses the hope that the programme of action to be adopted by the Summit in March 1995 will include concrete actions to eradicate all types of poverty, particularly rural poverty and extreme poverty;

3. Stresses that an in-depth and complete study of the nature, the causes and the consequences of all types of poverty in developing countries which affect mankind is necessary within the framework of the Year;

4. Requests the Secretary-General through the secretariat of the World Summit for Social Development, the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development and the United Nations University to give appropriate consideration, in directing their research and studies of all types of poverty, to the experiences of the poor themselves and so contribute to a better understanding of their situation;

5. Also requests the Secretary-General, in consultation with all States, concerned specialized agencies, programmes and organs of the United Nations system, relevant international organizations, non-governmental organizations and interested groups, to achieve at an early date the elaboration of the draft programme concerning the preparations for and observance of the Year, containing the objectives, principles and main recommendations for the Year, and to submit

a final report thereon to the General Assembly for adoption at its fiftieth session;

6. Recommends that a number of particular themes should be chosen on the one hand to reflect the multidimensional and complex nature of the problem, and the multisectoral, multi-pronged and comprehensive approach required to meet the challenge of poverty, and on the other to ensure that the Year makes a distinct and significant contribution to the effort to eradicate poverty;

7. Requests the preparatory body for the Year to organize in 1995, so as to choose a logo for the Year, an international competition whose winner should be awarded a prize at the launching ceremony of the Year;

8. Requests the Secretary-General to organize in December 1995, during the fiftieth session of the General Assembly, the ceremony marking the launching of the International Year for the Eradication of Poverty;

9. Invites all States, organizations of the United Nations system, relevant international organizations, concerned national organizations, non-governmental organizations and interested groups to give the necessary attention to the preparations for and observance of the Year;

10. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fiftieth session a sub-item on the International Year for the Eradication of Poverty under the item entitled "International cooperation for the eradication of poverty in developing countries".

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Agenda item 88 (c)

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION: COMMODITIES

Algeria*: draft resolution

Commodities

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its resolutions 45/200 of 21 December 1990, 47/185 of 22 December 1992 and 48/214 of 23 December 1993, and stressing the urgent need of their full implementation,

Welcoming the importance attached in Agenda 21, adopted by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, 1/ to issues related to commodities in the context of sustainable development,

Recalling the commitments on market access made in the Final Act of the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations and the importance attached therein to increased export opportunities for developing countries,

Recognizing that in many developing countries, in particular African countries and least developed countries, the commodity sector remains the principal source of export revenues, employment, income and savings and an

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* On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China.

1/ Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992 (A/CONF.151/26/Rev.1 (Vol. I and Vol. I/Corr.1, Vol. II, Vol. III and Vol. III/Corr.1)) (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigenda), vol. I: Resolutions Adopted by the Conference, resolution 1, annex II.

important field for investment and makes a significant contribution to the reactivation of growth and development,

Recognizing also the need for a better functioning of commodity markets and for stable and more predictable commodity prices through, among other things, avoiding excessive price fluctuations and searching for long-term solutions to commodity problems;

Concerned about the difficulties experienced by the developing countries in financing and implementing viable diversification programmes;

Mindful of the need for developing countries, especially African countries and least developed countries, to diversify their primary commodities, with a view to modernizing their production, distribution and marketing systems, enhancing productivity and stabilizing and increasing their export earnings in the context of the decline of many primary commodity prices,

1. Takes note with appreciation of the report of the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development on the commodity situation, developmental linkages between the commodity sector and other sectors, and actions required to develop such linkages in the context of diversification; 2/

2. Expresses the urgent need for supportive international policies to improve the functioning of commodity markets through, inter alia, improving the efficiency and transparency of price fixation mechanisms, including commodity exchanges and the use of commodity price risk management instruments;

3. Also expresses the need for stable and more predictable commodity prices for developing countries, in particular the commodity dependent developing countries;

4. Stresses the importance of commodity diversification as a means of increasing the export revenues of developing countries and of improving their competitiveness in the face of the loss of trade preference of their primary product;

5. Urges developed countries to support the commodity diversification efforts of developing countries, especially African countries, by providing resources to finance the preparatory phase of their commodity diversification programmes;

6. Reiterates the importance of maximizing the contribution of the commodity sector to economic growth and development in commodity dependent developing countries, and in this respect stresses, inter alia, that:

(a) An appropriate domestic environment and a favourable international environment are critical for successful diversification and the creation of

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2/ A/49/226.

developmental linkages between the commodity sector and other sectors of the economy, as well as for the availability of market outlets;

(b) Trade-distorting policies and practices, including tariff and non-tariff barriers, tariff escalation and obstacles to competition influence negatively the ability of developing countries to diversify their exports and undertake the requisite restructuring of their commodity sector;

(c) Expansion of South-South trade in commodities offers opportunities for intersectoral linkages within and among exporting countries;

(d) There is a need to promote research and development, provide infrastructure and support services and encourage investment, including joint ventures in developing countries engaged in the commodity and commodity-processing sectors;

7. Emphasizes the importance of developing countries processing a significant part of their commodities, and in this regard stresses the need for new market opportunities for their processed and semiprocessed commodities;

8. Requests the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, in close collaboration with the executive secretaries of the regional commissions and other organizations concerned, to intensify the examination of the impact of the results of the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations on individual commodities of particular interest to developing countries, taking into account the special and differential treatment agreed for developing countries, in particular African countries and least developed countries;

9. Notes with appreciation the work being carried out by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in assessing the impact of the Uruguay Round on agricultural commodity markets, and encourages that organization to pursue its work and inform the General Assembly of its findings;

10. Urges producers and consumers of individual commodities to intensify their efforts aimed at reinforcing mutual cooperation and assistance;

11. Welcomes the assignment to the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development of the United Nations global mandate for mineral resources, and urges that appropriate financial resources be made available to allow the Conference, in close collaboration with the regional commissions, to expand its technical assistance to developing countries in that area;

12. Further welcomes the decision of the Standing Committee on Commodities of the Trade and Development Board, urging the secretariat of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development to continue its work on commodity risk management, particularly in regard to developing countries;

13. Stresses the importance of improving the competitiveness of natural products with environmental advantages and of the impact that could have on promoting sustainable consumption and production patterns, welcomes the related work being undertaken within the purview of the Standing Committee on

Commodities and of the Codex Alimentarius on certification, and calls for financial and technical assistance for the developing countries for research and development with respect to such commodities;

14. Notes that the number of requests for assistance from the Second Account of the Common Fund for Commodities is increasing, and expresses the need for further contributions to that Fund;

15. Decides to include the question of commodities in the agenda of its fifty-first session.

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ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT: ELABORATION OF AN INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION IN THOSE COUNTRIES EXPERIENCING SERIOUS DROUGHT AND/OR DESERTIFICATION, PARTICULARLY IN AFRICA

Draft resolution submitted by the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Mr. Arjan P. Hamburger (Netherlands), on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/49/L.13

Elaboration of an international convention to combat desertification in those countries experiencing serious drought and/or desertification, particularly in Africa

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 44/172 of 19 December 1989, 44/228 of 22 December 1989 and other relevant General Assembly resolutions and decisions, and the recommendations made in Agenda 21, 1/ adopted by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development,

Recalling also its resolution 47/188 of 22 December 1992, by which it established the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for the Elaboration of an International Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa, with a view to finalizing such a convention by June 1994,

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1/ See Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992 (A/CONF.151/26/Rev.1) (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigenda), vol. I: Resolutions Adopted by the Conference, resolution 1, annex II.

Recalling further its resolution 48/191 of 21 December 1993, by which it urged the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee to complete its negotiations by June 1994,

Noting that, in the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa, 2/ adopted in Paris, on 17 June 1994, article 35 provides that secretariat functions will be carried out on an interim basis by the secretariat established by the General Assembly in its resolution 47/188 until the completion of the first session of the Conference of the Parties; and also noting that in paragraph 4 of its resolution 5/2, the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee requested the Secretary-General to make proposals enabling the secretariat established pursuant to General Assembly resolution 47/188 to continue its activities on an interim basis, until the permanent secretariat of the Convention is designated by the Conference of the Parties, 3/

Acknowledging with appreciation the support provided for the operation of the secretariat during 1994 by the United Nations Development Programme/United Nations Sahelian Office, the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Capital Development Fund, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the International Fund for Agricultural Development, the World Meteorological Organization, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the United Nations regional commissions and bilateral contributors,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of resolution 48/191 and on possible requirements for intergovernmental and secretariat work on the implementation of the Convention and its regional annexes, 4/ and having also considered resolution 5/1 of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee on urgent action for Africa, 5/ in the period up to and including the first session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention,

Considering the Convention one of the main steps in the follow-up to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development,

1. Welcomes the adoption, on 17 June 1994, of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa, by the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee, and welcomes further the signing of the Convention in Paris on 14 and 15 October 1994 by a large number of States and one regional economic integration organization;

2/ See A/49/84/Add.2, annex, appendix II.

3/ Ibid., appendix III.

4/ A/49/477.

5/ A/49/84/Add.2, annex, appendix III.

2. Urges States that have not yet signed the Convention to do so during the present session of the General Assembly and no later than 13 October 1995, in conformity with article 33 of the Convention, and urges countries and organizations that have signed the Convention to proceed to its ratification so that it may enter into force as soon as possible;

3. Invites signatories of the Convention, in addition to the information provided at the time of signature, to continue to communicate to the interim secretariat of the Convention information on actions undertaken or envisaged for the implementation of the provisions of resolution 5/1 of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee on urgent action for Africa; 5/

4. Decides that the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee shall continue to function in order:

(a) To prepare for the first session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, as specified in the Convention;

(b) To facilitate the implementation of the provisions of resolution 5/1 of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee on urgent action for Africa, through the exchange of information and the review of progress made thereon;

(c) To initiate measures relating to the identification of an organization to house the global mechanism to promote actions leading to the mobilization and channelling of substantial financial resources, including its operational modalities;

(d) To elaborate the rules of procedure of the Conference of Parties;

(e) To consider other relevant issues, including measures to ensure the implementation of the Convention and its regional annexes;

5. Decides also, for this purpose, to hold, in addition to the sixth session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee, to be held in New York for up to two weeks from 9 January 1995, a two-week session in Nairobi, from 7 to 18 August 1995, and, pending the entry into force of the Convention, to hold further necessary sessions in 1996 and 1997, the venue and timing of which shall be recommended by the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee;

6. Invites the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee, in this regard, to adopt and implement expeditiously a plan of work for the period leading to the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties and requests the Secretary-General to make arrangements within the overall calendar of conferences for the Committee to hold the forthcoming sessions;

7. Requests all countries, the United Nations system, including the regional commissions, relevant subregional and regional organizations and appropriate scientific and business communities, trade unions, relevant non-governmental organizations and other interested groups to take action for the prompt implementation of the Convention and its relevant regional annexes upon its entry into force and in this regard to respond effectively to the needs in the African, Asian and the Latin American and Caribbean regions;

8. Urges all countries, the United Nations system, including the regional commissions, relevant subregional and regional organizations and all other relevant actors to take actions and measures for the full and effective implementation of the provisions of Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee resolution 5/1 on urgent action for Africa; 5/

9. Decides that the work of the Committee and the interim secretariat shall continue to be funded through existing United Nations budgetary resources, without negatively affecting its programmed activities, and through voluntary contributions to the trust fund established, pursuant to its resolution 47/188, specifically for that purpose and administered by the head of the interim secretariat under the authority of the Secretary-General, with the possibility of using the fund, as appropriate, to support the participation of representatives of non-governmental organizations in the work of the Committee and of carrying over resources contributed from one fiscal year to the other;

10. Notes the arrangements made by the Secretary-General and the contributions of the United Nations Development Programme, including the United Nations Sahelian Office, the United Nations Environment Programme, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the International Fund for Agricultural Development, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the World Meteorological Organization, the World Bank, and other relevant international organizations active in the fields of desertification, drought and development to the work of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee in the conduct of its mandate, and invites them to intensify and expand such support in the future;

11. Welcomes the proposal of the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme, following the adoption of the Convention, and in conformity with the provisions of paragraph 38.27 of Agenda 21, 1/ that the Programme support the implementation of the Convention world wide, with particular attention to Africa, and invites the Programme and the United Nations Sahelian Office to seek the necessary financial resources and other forms of support to be able to play that role more effectively;

12. Notes with appreciation the contributions made thus far to the trust fund, and invites Governments, regional economic integration organizations and other interested organizations to continue to make voluntary contributions to the fund to support the interim secretariat of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee and the work of the Committee;

13. Notes with appreciation the contributions made to the special voluntary fund established pursuant to its resolution 47/188 to assist developing countries affected by desertification and drought, in particular the least developed countries, to participate fully and effectively in the negotiating process, and invites Governments, regional economic integration organizations and other interested organizations to continue to contribute generously to the fund so as to allow those countries to participate fully and effectively in the work of the Committee;

14. Requests the Chairman of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee to submit progress reports on the Committee's work to the General Assembly, the Commission on Sustainable Development and other appropriate bodies of the United Nations;

15. Requests the Secretary-General to bring the present resolution to the attention of all Governments, relevant specialized agencies and programmes of the United Nations, international financial institutions other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and other relevant institutions;

16. Also requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fiftieth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution, on the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa, under the agenda item entitled "Implementation of decisions and recommendations of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development".